

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-02 IO-13 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 TRSE-00 /087 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:JWSWIHART:JKB
APPROVED BY EUR - GVEST
S/S - TMARTIN
NEA/IAI - GKULICK
HA - GBRODY
EUR/EE - CSCHMIDT
C - IWOLF

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P 250118Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019584

FOR COUNSELOR NIMETZ

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PFOR, VT

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMO FOR YOUR MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP
CASAROLI, JANUARY 27, 9:00 A.M.

1. FOLLOWING IS BRIEFING MEMO PREPARED FOR CASAROLI'S
MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS
JANUARY 26-27.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI IS VISITING THE UNITED STATES IN
CONNECTION WITH THE UN DAY OF PEACE CEREMONIES BEING HELD
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IN NEW YORK. IN ADDITION TO YOURSELF, HE PLANS TO MEET
WITH MATT NIMETZ AND ME. GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY IS HOSTING
A DINNER IN HIS HONOR AND ON JANUARY 27 HE WILL SEE
HENRY KISSINGER.

KEY ISSUES

1. MIDDLE EAST

POPE PAUL HAS PUBLICLY ENDORSED PRESIDENT SADAT'S INITIATIVE AND IS GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF US PEACE EFFORTS. SEEING ITS ROLE AS REPRESENTING CHRISTIAN INTERESTS IN A SETTLEMENT OF

THE JERUSALEM QUESTION, THE VATICAN HAS PROPOSED A "SPECIAL STATUTE" PROVIDING FOR INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES FOR THE HOLY PLACES AND THEREBY LIMITING ISRAELI/ARAB CONTROL OF THEM. SO FAR NEITHER THE ISRAELIS NOR THE ARABS HAVE ACCEPTED THE VATICAN PROPOSAL.

YOUR TALKING POINTS

-- EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR VATICAN SUPPORT FOR SADAT'S INITIATIVE.

-- BRIEF CASAROLI ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ESPECIALLY ANY FORWARD MOVEMENT ON THE ISSUE OF JERUSALEM.

-- ASK FOR DETAILS OF VATICAN PROPOSAL FOR A "SPECIAL STATUTE" ON JERUSALEM.

2. ITALIAN COMMUNISM

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THE VATICAN HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY WORRIED BY THE GROWING ROLE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BUT HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO SPEAK OUT STRONGLY AND SO FAR HAS LIMITED ITSELF TO RECALLING THE "IRRECONCILABILITY" OF CHRISTIANITY AND MARXISM. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT CASAROLI, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF INTENSE ACTIVITIES IN SEARCHING FOR GREATER LIBERALIZATION TOWARD THE CHURCH IN EASTERN EUROPE, IS REGARDED BY MANY AS AN OPPONENT WITHIN THE VATICAN OF A HARDER LINE ON THE PCI.

YOUR TALKING POINTS

-- OUR JANUARY 12 STATEMENT ON ITALY WAS INTENDED TO MAKE CLEAR OUR POSITION ON COMMUNIST PARTIES IN WESTERN EUROPE, ESPECIALLY ITALY. WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN ITALIAN POLITICS. AT THE SAME TIME WE HAVE A RIGHT TO OUR DOUBTS ABOUT THE COMMUNISTS.

-- THE COMMUNISTS WANT POWER IN A WEST EUROPEAN CONTEXT. THEY HAVE MADE MANY ADJUSTMENTS ALREADY TO GET IT AND WILL MAKE MORE. WE BELIEVE THAT OUR RESISTANCE IS A FACTOR IN INDUCING THEM TO MAKE CHANGES LEADING ULTIMATELY TOWARD A

CLARIFICATION OF THEIR NATURE AND INTENTIONS.

-- WE GREATLY APPRECIATE THE POSITIVE ROLE THE CHURCH HAS PLAYED VIS-A-VIS THE COMMUNIST PROBLEM IN ITALY.

3. EASTERN EUROPE

THE HOLY SEE HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN OBTAINING ADDITIONAL BREATHING SPACE FOR THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN POLAND AND HUNGARY, AS SYMBOLIZED BY THE POPE'S RECENT PRIVATE AUDIENCES WITH GIEREK AND KADAR. THE VATICAN MAY BE PLANNING ADDITIONAL BREAKTHROUGHS IN RELATIONS WITH POLAND AND HUNGARY, INCLUDING ESTABLISHING FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. A NUMBER OF OBSTACLES STILL STAND IN THE WAY
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OF BETTER RELATIONS WITH EAST GERMANY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE VATICAN HAS NO SPECIAL PROBLEMS WITH BULGARIA, WHILE IN ROMANIA IT HOPES TO RESOLVE MOST OF THE EXISTING CHURCH/STATE ISSUES.

YOUR TALKING POINTS

-- WE HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR THE POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE THE CHURCH IS PLAYING IN EASTERN EUROPE. THE CHURCH HAS GREATLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREATER FREEDOM AND HUMAN DIGNITY IN THE WARSAW PACT NATIONS.

-- WE APPRECIATE THE CONSTRUCTIVE AND FRANK DIALOGUE WE HAD WITH YOU DURING THE PAST YEAR IN CONNECTION WITH OUR DECISION TO RETURN THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN TO THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS

THE VATICAN HAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES. HOWEVER, THE VATICAN PERCEIVES DIFFERENT ROLES FOR THE UNITED STATES -- WHICH CASAROLI BELIEVES SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD -- AND THE VATICAN, WHICH IS CONSCIOUS OF THE POTENTIAL FOR PUTTING BELIEVERS IN JEOPARDY VIS-A-VIS REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS. CASAROLI MAY HAVE THOUGHTS ON HOW VATICAN INITIATIVES AND THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES MIGHT COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER.

YOUR TALKING POINTS

-- WE ARE PLEASED AT VATICAN SUPPORT FOR US HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES. THIS SUPPORT HAS POLITICAL MEANING, AS SHOWN BY OUR ABILITY TO COORDINATE PRESENTATIONS AT THE
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BELGRADE CONFERENCE.

-- WHAT ARE YOUR IDEAS ON PRACTICAL US HUMAN RIGHTS
INITIATIVES IN EASTERN EUROPE OR THE THIRD WORLD TO
ENCOURAGE OTHER DEVELOPED STATES, AND ESPECIALLY DEVELOPING
NATIONS, TO JOIN IN THESE EFFORTS? END TEXT.

DRAFTED:EUR/WE:JWSWIHART APPROVED: EUR:GVEST

CLEARANCES: HA:GBRODY; NEA/IAI:GKULICK; C:IWOLF; EUR/EE:

CSCHMIDT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEACE, MEETINGS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE019584
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JWSWIHART:JKB
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780036-1033
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780123/aaaaatna.tel
Line Count: 184
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e4c6a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3715816
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEFING MEMO FOR YOUR MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI, JANUARY 27, 9:00 A.M.
TAGS: PFOR, PEPR, VT, US
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e4c6a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014